



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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NATIONAL ELK REFUGE REMINDS DOG WALKERS OF LEASH LAW

As an increasing number of people take advantage of the warmer weather and spring snow melt to walk their dogs on the National Elk Refuge Road, Refuge Manager Barry Reiswig reminds area residents and visitors that dogs must be leashed while on Refuge roads. The regulation has been in effect since 2001 in response to an increasing number of uncontrolled dogs and resulting wildlife disturbances.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principle Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. "We encourage people to recreate on the Refuge Road," says Reiswig, "but protection of wildlife and their habitats has to be everyone's priority." Dogs that are off leash and out of control can stress wildlife and ruin wildlife viewing opportunities for others.

All traffic, including pedestrians, is currently restricted to the main Refuge Road and turnouts. A winter wildlife closure will remain in effect on the Curtis Canyon and Flat Creek Roads through the Refuge until May 1. The closure is essential to avoid human disturbance of wildlife during the time of year when deep snow and less natural forage make energy conservation the key to wildlife survival.

Both vehicles and non-motorized travelers should expect multi-use traffic on the popular route and safely share the roadway.

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www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge